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ACCESS TO THE HOLDINGS OF NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARIES

This study, which was completed at the end of March 1996, determined a model for providing public access to the holdings of all Nova Scotia libraries both now and in the future. Currently, Nova Scotians have only arm's-length access to the holdings of many major Nova Scotian libraries. The model of a centralised national union catalogue, which Nova Scotia has supported enthusiastically in the past, became insupportable after the 1994 federal government funding cutbacks which resulted in the cessation of funds to the province for this reporting activity. Provincial support to the philosophy of resource sharing was, however, if anything even stronger, culminating in the critical need to examine the National Library's vision of regional interconnectivity within a virtual Canadian Union Catalogue. Such a virtual union catalogue would give a single-view electronic window to the contents of all Nova Scotia libraries - academic, scientific, public and government by using the Z39.50 standard of client-server technology, and the subsequent merging of search results. It is envisaged that the far-reaching implications of the recommendations from this study will provide provincial autonomy, a greater cost-effectiveness and easy comprehensive access to information by all users.

The study which was carried out by Beaumont and Associates in partnership with NGL Nordicity Group Ltd., determined that the presence of the Internet throughout Nova Scotia, and the forthcoming availability of the Z39.50 standard will indeed enable this system to be implemented. Nova Scotia has a considerable advantage with its current and proposed infrastructure through the EDnet Wide Area Network of the Department of Education and Culture. Through the more than 135 existing EDnet sites across the province, Nova Scotians will have direct access to this information. The major library systems, NcompasS, Halifax Regional Library and Novanet, represent the holdings of most university and public libraries and will soon be available to the Z39.50 protocol. Subsequently, community colleges, government libraries and hospital libraries will all have the opportunity to also become interlinked and immediately available to the public rather than only available by a request to a library.

Recommendations were made on how to facilitate access to information on Nova Scotia's library holdings within the national framework such as:

- coordination of the information on the availability of library materials throughout the province
- determination of the appropriate linkages needed to provide automated access to holdings in libraries throughout the province.
- development of a cost effective Nova Scotia resource sharing strategy that is consistent with that of the National Library of Canada.
- automation of interlibrary loan location management to Provincial Library client groups across the province.

NcompasS - AUTOMATING THE REGIONAL LIBRARIES

Automating the regional libraries in Nova Scotia using DRA/MultiLIS software has commenced at the

Western Counties Regional Library following the approval of their grant application under the Automation Grant Program. The initial planning stage involving all issues having system-wide implications came to an end in early May 1996, with final decisions being made by representatives of all regional libraries at an Automation Working Group meeting. Meanwhile, training on various modules of the software such as Policies Management and Collections Exchange has been carried out at Yarmouth with Western Counties staff. Barcoding the entire Western Counties collection of 150,000 volumes with a mixture of intelligent and dumb barcodes is about to commence, as is the conversion and extraction of Western Counties own data from the merged database of all regional libraries outside metro Halifax, into the Western Counties' own database on NcompasS.

The next steps involve the building of the Western Counties patron database, adding in excess of 60,000 holdings to item records already in NcompasS and commencing circulation. A similar program of automating another of the three current signees of the Automation Grant program, Annapolis Valley Regional Library, will commence early in July 1996.

WCRL AUTOMATION - COLLECTION EXCHANGE TRAINING

On May 6th-8th Dianne Brunelle from DRA/MultiLIS in Montreal provided hands on training in the use of the Collection Exchange module for the Western Counties Regional Library staff. Also in attendance were Johanna Cooper and Bridget Turner from NSPL. The Collection Exchange module manages exchanges between a regional library headquarters and its branch libraries. Material types and collection categories are used in the Collection Exchange module to allow different parts of a collection to be rotated at different rates, taking into account the size and usage patterns of different parts of the collection.

WCRL will be using the Collection Exchange module to rotate most of their collection. The Banks Collection, however, will be retained permanently in Headquarters as a local historical collection. New items will be retained in the branches as local collections for a period of 2 years, after which time they will be exchanged with the remainder of the collection.

SCHOOLNET DIGITAL COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

SchoolNet Digital Collections is an innovative Industry Canada program designed to help young Canadians develop entrepreneurial and high tech information management skills as they transfer Canada s key heritage and science and technology collections or material from institutions across the country into digital form and launch them on SchoolNet.

Teams of young people will receive on the job experience while working with emerging multi media businesses, or other organizations with the expertise to make a wealth of largely undiscovered Canadian material accessible on the Information Highway.

The program, which was announced in the recent federal budget, is funded through the Youth Initiative

announced March 13 by the Minister of Human Resources Development. It is focusing mainly on students looking for jobs that will help them finance their education while developing the technology and business skills needed in today's competitive job market. The program also assists young Canadians who have left school and need skills up grading and recent graduates in search of entry level experience. Industry Canada invites proposals for SchoolNet Digital Collections from prospective partners including institutions, firms and teams of young people. For more information about the program, contact collections@ic.gc.ca.

LINKed

Here are some more WWW sites to inform and entertain you. If you know of any interesting sites to include, e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca) and I'll list them here.

Canadian newspapers from InfoMart
http://www.infomart.ca/ tod days_news/index.html
- get the headlines and the lead stories from several of Canada's major dailies such as the Ottawa Citizen and the Vancouver Sun.

The Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection
ht ttp://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/Map_collection.html
- maps of all areas of the world. Some are political maps while others are relief maps.

Britannica's Lives
http://www.eb.com/calendar/c ale endar.html
- check out who in history was born on any day of the year. For example, Edith Wharton, William Congreve and Farinelli were all born the same day as your humble editor.

The Human Languages Page
http://www.willa met tte.edu/~tjones/Language-Page.html
- collections of links about human languages, including some I've never even heard of. Find dictionaries, literary texts, and all sorts of other materials grouped by language.

WHERE WE FOUND IT

We're beginning a new column this month with a collection of reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Patron wants a book on raising and caring for a Kuvasz dog.

A. A homepage for the Kuvasz Fanciers of America was found at the following address: http://www. vnet.net/us ers s/dbwalker/kuvasz.html

This site and a number of other useful sites on this topic can be found by entering the keyword "kuvasz" in any of the search engines. A pamphlet by the Kuvasz Fanciers of America was found at the above site which contains a lot of helpful information about this type of Hungarian sheep dog. There is also a bibliography of books available on sheep dogs, including the Kuvasz, at the end of the pamphlet.

Q. The patron needs a register or dictionary of the family and first names of Polynesia.

A. While more traditional information sources were used to answer this question, some useful information was found on the homepage of the Polynesian Cultural Centre at http://www.polynesia.com/

This site was found simply by entering the keyword "polynesia" in the Infoseek search engine. The site provided a wealth of information about Polynesia including the names of the countries which it comprises. -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, we are featuring a publication which is currently in our professional collection and another which is a sample issue of a publication we intend to order. Items found in this column can be obtained from the Provincial Library's Professional Collection through regular ILL channels.

1) Effective Beginnings: A Guide to New Partnerships in Schools. Ottawa: the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation, 1995. (Call #: Prof 371 .1 Eff)

- Education authorities in many regions of Canada are planning or implementing school councils or committees where parents, teachers and principals (and sometimes students and community members) form a partnership to advise and consult on school issues. In this new partnership, the school council is given influence over many aspects of school life, including in some cases, the school's program and services. This guidebook was prepared for the use of all those who are participating for the first time as partners on such advisory or consultative school councils or committees. The chapters cover such topics as the basic organization of the school council, the parents as partners, making a successful partnership, five steps to effective beginnings and team building. The appendices provide information on how to run meetings and give lists of interesting books and videos which provide useful information.

2) Women'space - Internet Magazine. (Quarterly). Published by Women'space - R.R.#1. Scotsburn, Nova Scotia. B0K 1R0. $19.00 Cdn / year.

- This is a locally published newsletter by, for and about women and the Internet. Its aim is to further the equality of women and to work towards preventing discrimination on grounds of race, class, national status, disability, age and sexual orientation. This newsletter was born out of a need to develop women's understanding and use of cyberspace as a powerful tool for women's activism. Articles are brief but cover a broad spectrum of women's concerns. Each issue features interesting web sites pertaining to

women's activities. A subscription can be ordered from - Women'space, R.R.#1, Scotsburn, Nova Scotia, B0K 1R0 or it can be accessed on the WWW at http:// www.softaid.net/cathy/vsister/w-space/womspce.html. The Provincial Library plans to subscribe to this newsletter in the very near future. We will advise you when we start receiving issues. -- Frank Oram

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